

Struggles

Good News

Faithfulness

Peace

Faith

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

The Big Themes Of A Life Changing Letter

Salvation

Grace

Living sacrifices

Living in the Spirit

SIN

Forgiveness

SUNDAY
MORNINGS
10.30AM
MAY/JULY
2020

Romans

Chapter 1:18 to Chapter 2:16

*For "if we have been united with him in
"a death like his, we shall certainly be united
with him in a resurrection like his." *We know
that "our old self" was crucified with him in

^aSome manuscripts let us; ^bSome manuscripts omit by both; ^cOr let us; also verse 3; ^dOr hast; also verses 3, 11
refers here to both men and women; also twice in verse 18; ^eOr the trespass of one; ^fOr the act of righteousness.

Romans 1: 16

I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

...But why is that such good news Paul?







Paul's explanation for why the gospel, the unveiling of God's justice and salvation is much needed is that the tree is rotten to the core.

The tree in question is the human race.



Romans 1: 18-32

God's Wrath Against Sinful Humanity

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator — who is forever praised. Amen.

26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

28 Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. 32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

This passage pronounces God's judgement on the whole of humankind.

What is the wrath of God?

First, what it is not.

- It is not vindictive bitterness or uncontrollable rage.
- It is not God losing his temper and beating us.

In fact, the bible tells us in more than one place that God is slow to anger and that he doesn't lose his temper. Example: Psalm 103:8 & Psalm 145:8

So, what is God's wrath?

'God's wrath is his holy hostility to evil'

John Stott

“God's wrath, is an aspect of his love: it is because God loves human beings with a steady, unquenchable passion that he hated Apartheid, that he hates torture and cluster bombs, that he loathes slavery, that his wrath is relentless against the rich who oppress the poor. If God was not wrathful against these and so many other distortions of our human vocation, he is not loving. And it is his love, determining to deal with that nasty, insidious, vicious, soul-destroying evil, that caused him to send his only, special son.”

N.T. Wright

We see in these verses that there is a simple progression here

...It begins with indifference

For although they knew God they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him.

Romans 1: 21

Rejection of God leads to idolatry

They exchanged the glory of God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles Romans 1: 23

They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator. Romans 1: 25

What modern day idols have we made for ourselves?

Who or what do we worship?

Idolatry leads on to wickedness and every kind of evil

Therefore, God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies.

Romans 1: 24

Idolatry leads on to wickedness and every kind of evil

God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural relations. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another.

Romans 1: 26

They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful. They invent ways of doing evil, they disobey their parents, they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

Romans 1: 29-31

Chapter 2: 1-16 – God’s Righteous Judgment

2 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

2 Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. 3 So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment? 4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realising that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. 6 God “will repay each person according to what they have done.” 7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honour and immortality, he will give eternal life. 8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. 9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; 10 but glory, honour and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. 11 For God does not show favouritism.

12 All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. 13 For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. 14 (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.) 16 This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

What does Paul tell us about God's Judgement?

God's judgment is truthful – Romans 2:1-2

You therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgement on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you, who pass judgement do the same things. Now we know that God's judgement against those who do such things is based on truth.

Human judgement is biased and prejudiced. God's judgment is based on facts, and he knows every fact about every person. Nothing is hidden from him.

God's judgment is universal –

Romans 2:3-4 & 12-16

You therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgement on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you, who pass judgement do the same things. Now we know that God's judgement against those who do such things is based on truth.

Human judgement is biased and prejudiced. God's judgment is based on facts, and he knows every fact about every person. Nothing is hidden from him.

God's judgment is inevitable –

Romans 2:5-6

God will give each person according to what he has done.

We can try and pretend that it's not going to happen but every person will one day face God's judgement

God's judgment is impartial –

Romans 2:7-11

There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew and then the Gentile. But glory, honour and peace for everyone who does good: For God does not show favouritism.

Unlike us God shows favouritism to no one. However, he does show favour. Those who persist in doing good will receive eternal life.

The big theme in this section of Romans is that all mankind is sinful and none of us have any excuses.

The consequence of our wrong behaviour is that we will have to face God's judgment.